GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1927
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
WELFARE OF BIDI WORKERS
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of money collected by the Government by levying cess on Bidi in the last year and the amount spent on welfare of Bidi workers from this fund, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any fresh welfare measures for Bidi workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a): The Government have collected Rs.84.48 crores as cess on bidi in the year of 2002-2003. The details of the amount spent on the welfare measures extended to the bidi workers during the year are annexed at Annexure-I.

(b) to (d): A new scheme for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred on treatment of minor diseases like Hernia, Appendectomy, Ulcer, Gynecological, and prostrate diseases has been introduced for the bidi workers and their families. Apart from these a number of other financial assistance have also been revised. The details of these financial assistance are given at Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

Statement referred to in part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1927 for 15.12.2003

DETAILS OF THE EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR 2002-2003

S. No.	Name of Region	States Covered	Expenditure (Rs. in crores)
1.	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal	2.65
2.	Bangalore	Karnataka & Kerala	12.60
3.	Bhilwara	Gujarat, Rajasthan & Haryana	2.48
4.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	4.88
5.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Assam, Tripura & Meghalaya	6.31
6.	Hyderabad	Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh	15.02
7	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	3.85
8.	Karma	Bihar and Jharkhand	8.34
9.	Nagpur	Maharashtra & Goa	9.61

Annexure-II

Statement referred to in part (b) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1927 for 15.12.2003

Benefits of the financial assistance for bidi workers and their families have been revised as :

(i) The actual cost or Rs.2.00 lakh in case of renal transplant and Rs.1.3 lakh for coronary by-pass surgery, whichever is less;

(ii) A lump sum amount of Rs.1,000/-, under Maternity Benefit, for eligible female bidi workers.

(iii) Subsistence allowance @Rs.1,000/- p.m. when there is more than one dependant and @Rs.750/- p.m. in case of one dependant only.

(iv) For the purpose of sport gear, 75% of the actual expenditure, subject to a limit of Rs.10,000/- and for other sports activities, 75% of the actual expenditure, subject to a limit of Rs.10,000/- in a financial year;

(v) The insurance claim amount, subject to the provisions of the scheme, is Rs.10,000/- for natural death and Rs.25,000/- for accidental death;

(vi) School uniform, text books and stationery to the wards studying upto Class-IV is Rs.250/- per head; and

(vii) Scholarship for children studying in Class-V and above in recognised institution to Rs.500/- to Rs.8,000/- per head per annum.